

CLASSIFICATION SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

FOUO 251

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia
SUBJECT Czech Infantry weapons

SECRET

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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- 50X1 1. [Redacted] Soviet Infantry weapons or ammunition
50X1 [Redacted] manufactured in Czechoslovakia. The potential for such
50X1 manufacture does exist at the Skoda works and Ceska Zbrojovka
(Czech armament) plants, but [Redacted] that these plants are
producing Soviet weapons or ammunition.
2. The following weapons have been adopted by the Army and are currently in use:
- (a) Rifle: Model 24, caliber 7.92, of Czech manufacture styled after the German model 98N with two main differences; the Czech rifle has a straight bolt while the German model had a curved bolt; the Czech rifle has a metal belt swivel screwed into the underside of the butt of the stock while the German model had a belt slot cut through the stock. The rifle is manufactured by Ceska Zbrojovka at Brno.

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- (b) Light machine gun: Model 26, fed, each magazine holding 20 rounds, also manufactured by Ceska Zbrojovka. [REDACTED] ILLEGIB
- (c) Heavy machine gun: Model 37, fed, each belt holding 200 rounds. Ceska Zbrojovka. [REDACTED] this is the best weapon of its type in the world; the German SS Elite troops used it as their standard heavy machine gun.
- (d) Sub machine gun: The Czech sub machine gun is a postwar-developed weapon manufactured by Ceska Zbrojovka in 1948 and 1949, at Brno, Usetin and Povazska Bystrica where plants of Ceska Zbrojovka are located. It is manufactured in three models all of which are 9mm caliber and magazine fed. Magazines are of two capacities, 24 and 40 rounds. The magazine is straight and not curved like the Soviet. The three models are:
- (1) Model 48 A is a one piece gun with a wooden stock;
 - (2) Model 48 B is all metal with a hinged metal stock which folds over the top of the gun similar to the Soviet model PPS M1943;
 - (3) Model 48 C is all metal with a metal stock which was specifically designed for paratroops and can easily be broken down into three parts thus making it portable within the clothing of a paratrooper.
- (e) Panzerfaust: The Czech Army has adopted the German Panzerfaust of World War II. [REDACTED] the Czechs have modified the German model and have increased its effective range to 300 meters and that it is being manufactured by the Czechs. [REDACTED]
- (f) Pistol: Currently there are two types of pistols in use in the Czech army; the German 9mm pistol, and the Soviet pistol TT M1933 Tokarev.
- (g) Mortars: There are two types of mortars which are in use in the Czech Army: the German 80mm mortar, and the Soviet 82mm mortar 1943 model. [REDACTED] The ammunition used in both mortars during training was the 80mm ammunition abandoned by the Germans when they left Czechoslovakia.

3. The following anti-tank weapons were used by the Czech Army:

- (a) Panzerfaust: The German model [See para 2e].
- (b) 45 mm AT gun: This is the Soviet model M1942 and is the main AT gun in use by the Czech Army. [REDACTED]

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- (c) Other AT guns: [redacted] during general discussions by officers at the QM School at Zilina and also at the school at Lipnik in 1949 and 1950 that the Czechs had under development a 57mm AT Gun styled after the German PAK 57mm AT gun. It was rumored that this new gun would have a muzzle velocity of 1400 meters per second, also that this weapon would replace the Soviet 45 mm AT gun currently in use. [redacted]

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50X1 Both guns were new and did not appear to have been used. The plates on these guns stated that they were manufactured at Skoda 1945. [redacted] they were the German 88mm AT guns made for the Germans at Skoda during the war. In 1949 [redacted]

50X1 the 88mm AT gun discussed by other officers who said that this gun would be manufactured by the Czechs. [redacted]

50X1 the Czech 88 mm AT gun would have a muzzle velocity of 1600 meters per second. [redacted]

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5. The condition of the present Czech infantry weapons is good; the Czechs maintain them well. In the event of an emergency such as a war, however, [redacted] the weapons in use would be replaced by new weapons of the same type which are being manufactured by the Czechs. There are sufficient stocks of ammunition available [redacted]

50X1 Huge stocks of ammunition were abandoned by the Germans, and the Czechs preserved these well; further, the Czechs are capable of producing their own ammunition. [redacted] the present Czech Army [redacted] made up of about 120,000 men; it is equipped fully with the weapons described in previous paragraphs. In the event of a war [redacted] the Czechs could equip an armed force of about 600,000 with the weapons they have on hand, except that there would be a shortage of anti-tank guns, tanks and aircraft. [redacted] experience any difficulty in obtaining replacements or spare parts for [redacted] weapons [redacted] at the Infantry School at Lipnik or at the QM School at Zilina. The stocks of spare parts at both places were more than adequate [redacted] this is the case throughout the Army [redacted]

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6. [] no definite information about partial or entire replacement
50X1 of Czech manufactured weapons by Soviet makes, except
hearsay information that it would be done someday to secure
uniformity which would be very beneficial in the event of a
50X1 conflict. This information is based on talks with other
officers [] no information about such
50X1 a changeover being in process or any evidence that Soviet
caliber weapons are being manufactured in Czechoslovakia.

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